

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 3-11, but respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 12 over Nishiguchi.

The present invention, as set forth amended claim 12, relates to a partial reinforcing apparatus for reinforcing a part of a metal material. A front punch and a rear punch press the metal materials, and a rotating means rotates the front punch and the rear punch in opposite directions about an axis, respectively. In contrast, Nishiguchi discloses rotating a front punch in the same direction as a rear punch.

For at least this reason, Nishiguchi does not anticipate claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and the rejection is unsupportable.

No further prior art being cited against claim 12, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection, reconsideration, and the prompt allowance of claim 12.

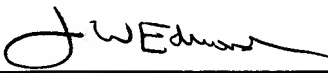
The Examiner already has considered the feature related to the rotation of front and rear punches in opposite directions in relation to claims 1 and 11, so no new issues are raised, and no further search should be necessary to enter this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment After Final is proper in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, or in better form for appeal.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 28, 2006

By: 
James W. Edmondson
Reg. No. 33,871